

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Havre Trap Club
1417 Washington Ave.
Havre, MT 59501

2. Type of Proposed Action: This proposal is divided into seven parts:

- (1) Three Pat Traps + stands
- (2) Twelve lights for three trap fields
- (3) Three sets of voice call release units
- (4) Cement pad for handicap Parking
- (5) Two gun racks
- (6) PA System
- (7) Safety and directional signage

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The Havre Trap Club has been on the current site since 1975. The ranges are located on leased property from the City of Havre. The current 25-year lease was approved in 2006. The property is located in Hill County Montana at SW ¼ NW ¼ NW ¼ of Section 21, Township 32 North, Range 16 east, M.P.M. The leased lands also include an element of a right-of-way for road purposes over, along and across the road that presently exists between Montana secondary highway N. 234 and the leased lands. (See figure 1, para. 7 Map).

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279
(Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting

ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices.)

5. Need for the Action(s): Modernization and expansion of the existing ranges is necessary for the increased number of shooters interested in Trap in the Havre area. Additionally, these measures will improve safety, efficiency and making the range more accessible for handicapped shooters, and improving operations for registered shoots, Hunter Education programs, local law enforcement and other groups. The closest trap club able to host registered or sanctioned “shoots” is Great Falls which is 120 miles south, Helena Trap Club 209 miles southwest, Medicine Lake 300 miles east, Kalispell 300 miles west, and Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada 110 miles north.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

The objective is to provide increased opportunity to participate in safe organized and efficient operation with increased shooting opportunities. This will ultimately result in better training or educational environment for the club, other user organizations, law enforcement, hunter education, and any other additional public uses.

7. Map:

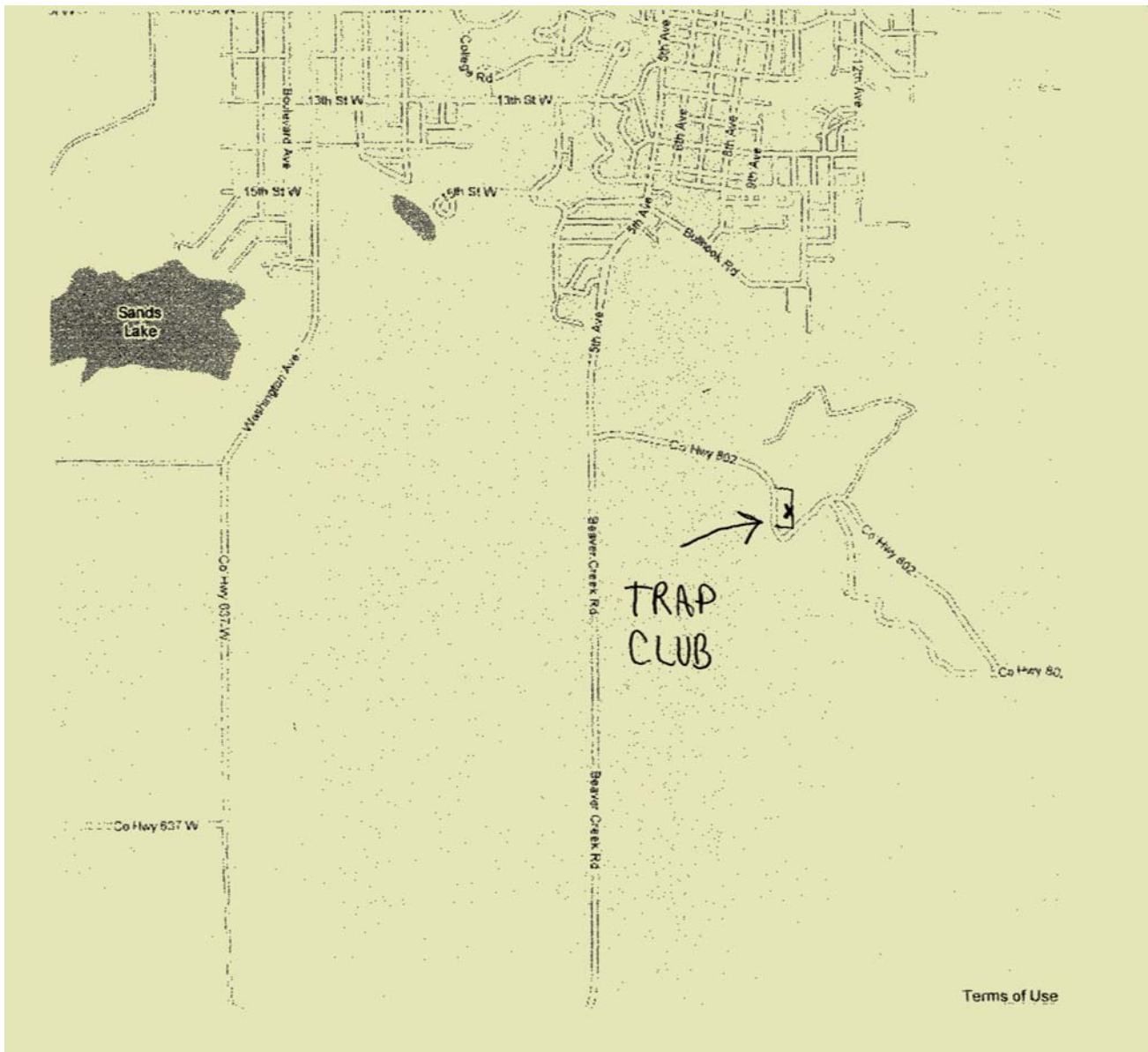


Figure 1 - Havre Trap Club Area Map

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

Range is approximately 10 acres, but improvements are limited to a much smaller area with proposed range enhancements.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The area affected is the existing Havre Trap Club that has been in place since 1975 on 10 acres just south of Havre, MT on Montana secondary highway 234. Range is built upon former agricultural land. There is a large valley to the north and east of the range with no residential homes either direction for a 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile. South of the range is pasture land with one home 1/4 of a mile away. To the west is also pasture land with another residence about 1/4 of a mile away.

10. Description of Project: In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

See paragraph 2 for outline of proposed actions.

(1). Purchase and install three automatic pat traps and associated stands. (2) Install 12 lights on 3 of the trap fields for night and low light shooting. (3) Purchase and install three sets of cordless voice call release units. (4) Add a cement pad for handicap parking to the existing system of handicapped sidewalks. (5) Fabricate and install two gun racks of 30 guns each. (6) Purchase and install a PA system. (7) Purchase and install additional safety and directional signage.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) **Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
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N/A

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$24,645.52

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: In the past the Havre Trap Club has hosted the Montana-Alberta (ATA) Challenge shoot, Northern Lights Athletics Scholarship Fund, Northern Lights Pheasant Jamboree, 4H shooting clinics, public shooting clinics, Hunter's Education Day, Spring and Fall Trap Leagues.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors. Additionally a public meeting was held on March 20, 2007. That meeting was well publicized in the Havre Daily News. No other public involvement was deemed necessary.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Ed Goodian
30959 Road 110 South
Box Elder, MT 59521
(406) 352-4980
edgoodian@yahoo.com

16. Other Pertinent Information:

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: March 27, 2007

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist - The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:						

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife				X		

populations and/or habitat						
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		#4
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

4. The site is adjacent to surrounding agricultural land.

5. Range site plans; construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate law enforcement training, hunter education, and public shooting.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects that are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant

impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) (1). Purchase and install three automatic pat traps and associated stands. (2) Install 12 lights on 3 of the trap fields for night and low light shooting. (3) Purchase and install three sets of cordless voice call release units. (4) Add a cement pad for handicap parking to the existing system of handicapped sidewalks. (5) Fabricate and install two gun racks of 30 guns each. (6) Purchase and install a PA system. (7) Purchase and install additional safety and directional signage.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** area will remain as an active trap range.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, A (Proposed Alternative) and B (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (A) nor the no action alternative (B) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of alternatives **A** to provide a modernized and expanded trap facility with an improved safety environment and increased shooting opportunities in the Havre area. Additionally the range is available to the general public, community organizations, law enforcement, shotgun training, and hunter education.
- The No Action Alternative would be not modernize and expand the current trap facilities, and to continue on with present shooting activities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities include trap ranges without the proposed expansions, modernizations and improvements to the safety of operations. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Ed Goodian, 30959 Road 110 South, Box Elder, MT 59521

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties leased from the city of Havre, MT by the Havre Trap Club. The low impact activities proposed and the increased recreational opportunity indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The 32-year history of the Havre Trap Club providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the modernization and expansion proposals outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 5, 2007

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Public meeting held on March 20, 2007 to discuss FWP grant application. Meeting announcements in the Havre Daily News on at least 3 occasions, March 16, 19, & 20, 2007.